

# **ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH**

*Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962*

*Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134 Phone: 415-468-0820*

*Website: [www.stelizabetsf.org](http://www.stelizabetsf.org) Email: [stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com)*

*December 29, 2024 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*



## **Mission Statement of St. Elizabeth Church**

“The joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or in any way afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ as well. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community of people united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit in their pilgrimage towards the Kingdom of their Father, bearers of a message of salvation for all of humanity. That is why they cherish a conviction of deep solidarity with the human race and its history.”

(From the Preface of *The Church in the Modern World*---Gaudium Et Spes---of Vatican II)

**Rev. Charles Puthota, Ph.D., Pastor**

### **Parish Office**

449 Holyoke Street  
415-468-0820 Fax 415-468-1457

### **Parish Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday  
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

### **Closed Fridays**

### **Parish Staff**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Patti Spiteri</b>  | Administrative Assistant /<br>Pastoral Coordinator |
| <b>Sandy Mehrwein</b> | Secretary  |
| <b>Fred Spence</b>    | Maintenance  |
| <b>Laurie Digneo</b>  | Faith Formation Coordinator                        |

### **Mass Schedule**

Saturday **4:30 pm**  
Sunday **8:30 am and 10:30 am**

### **Monday through Saturday**

Divine office: 8:00 am  
Mass: 8:30 am  
Holy Day: 8:30 am & 6:00 pm

### **Confession Schedule**

4:00 pm before the 4:30 pm Mass  
10:00 am before the 10:30 am Sunday Mass

**Baptism Preparation Classes** Call the  
Parish Office for more information.

### **Sacrament of Marriage**

Call the Parish Office six months

**Benediction and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:** Wednesdays after the 8:30 Mass.

**Legion of Mary Meeting:** 5:00 pm Monday in the Church.

**1000 Hail Mary's:** Third Saturday after the 8:30 am Mass until 3:30 pm.

**Over 50 Group:** Thursdays at 12 pm in Cantwell Hall.



## From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Charles Puthota  
December 29, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**New Year New Year 2025:** As we are on the verge of welcoming a brand new year 2025, let's place this whole new gift of time in God's hands. May the good Lord guide and protect us. May he make our lives shine. May he transform us into his channels of grace and love. Let bygones be bygones. Let's start anew and afresh to share our lives. We cannot allow pessimism or cynicism to tamper with the quality of life in the New Year. Let hope spring eternal in our hearts, motivating us to grapple with this new period of time with optimism and joy. If God is for us, who can be against us? Despite any sadness and heartbreak of 2024, we come with hope and faith, optimism and a sense of adventure, about what God and us together could do to help and heal the world. So, let's say yes to all that shall be in 2025. As Moses says: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

**Wednesday, January 1, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God: A Holy Day of Obligation.** Our Parish Mass is at 9.00 a.m. We begin a whole new year with the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Let's entrust this year in the hands of the loving Mother. Elizabeth declares at the Visitation: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42- 43). May this "mother of our Lord" look upon us always with the eyes of a loving and protecting mother. Let the new beginnings this year, perhaps with some new resolutions, be based on love that Mary ushered in by becoming the Mother of the Son of God. Mary started a whole new beginning by bringing Jesus into the world and letting the Kingdom of God be manifested in Jesus like never before. Let the new year for us be a new, fresh start for what we could *be* and for what we could *do* for God and family and the world. Through the affection of Mary, the Mother of God, may we come closer to Christ our Lord and do whatever he tells us to do this new year of 2025.

**New Year Quotes:** "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." — Albert Einstein. "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." — Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Come, gentlemen, I hope we shall drink down all unkindness." — William Shakespeare. "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." — Oprah Winfrey. "For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning." — T.S. Eliot. "We will open the book. Its

pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." — Edith Lovejoy Pierce. "May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!" — Joey Adams. "Your future depends on a lot of things, but mostly on you." — Anonymous

**Feast of the Holy Family:** This Sunday December 29 is the Feast of the Holy Family. Jesus lives with Mary and Joseph. Because of Jesus, this family becomes a holy family. The same way, when Jesus lives in our families, our families become holy. The purpose of this feast is to let Jesus be part of all that we are --- and strive for---in our families. As we reflect on all the struggles and dangers the Holy Family faced, we too draw strength to face life with grace because Jesus is with us. Let him fill our families with his Spirit and love.

**Quotes from Pope Francis on Family:** "We all know there is no such thing as the perfect family or a perfect husband or wife, and let's not even talk about the perfect mother-in-law.... It's us who do exist, sinners. Jesus knows us well and He tells us a secret: Never let the day end without apologizing." "It is normal that there be a quarrel between husband and wife... Maybe you're angry, maybe a plate flew, but please remember this: never finish the day without making peace! Never, never, never! This is a secret, a secret to protect love and to make peace."

**New Year Humor:** 1. "A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other." 2. "I don't need a New Year's resolution. You don't need that nonsense when you're perfect." 3. "I don't know what's so special about the New Year's Eve. I drop the ball at least once a day." 4. "Hope you are not too exhausted from your yearly visit to the gym on New Year's Day." 5. Biggest joke of the century: "Computers and mobile were invented to save our time." 6. "If people could read my mind, I'd get punched in the face a lot." 7. "Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth." 8. "I started thinking about the dangers of drinking on New Year's Eve. After that, I decided to stop thinking." 9. "Of course, women don't work as hard as men. They get it right the first time." 10. "Tell me a joke" ---"I don't think you'd understand a joke in my language. They are not so funny, anyway."

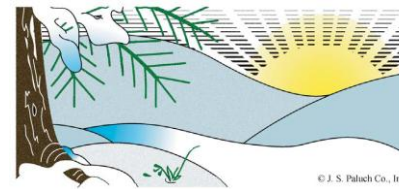
**New Year's Day Early Morning Prayer:** Dear Lord, so far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of your help. Amen.

**Wishing you and your families a joyful, restful, and faith-filled Christmas season, and a healthy and happy New Year!**

Your Friend and Pastor, Father Charles Puthota

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 29, 2024

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.  
— 1 John 3:2a



### HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always "get it right," but they always tried to. These three "amateurs" were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation—to do his Father's work—but he also returned home with his parents.  
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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or *Sirach* 3:2-6, 12-14.

**Psalms** — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or *Psalms* 128.

**Second Reading** — See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24) or *Colossians* 3:12-21 [12-17].

**Gospel** — The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They found him in the temple, in the midst of the teachers (Luke 2:41-52).  
The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### Saturday/Sunday Collection December 21 - 22

**Weekly Need:** \$ 5,000.00  
**First Collection** \$ 2,340.00  
**Parish Ministries** \$ 672.00  
**Over/Under** \$ 1,988.00

### Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Monday</b><br>8:30 am              | <b>December 30</b><br>† Pepito Camba  |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>8:30 am             | <b>December 31</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>9:00 am           | <b>January 1</b><br>New Year's Day  |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>8:30 am            | <b>January 2</b><br>† Rinaldo Schenone<br>† Lourdes Gozon                             |
| <b>Friday</b><br>8:30 am              | <b>January 3</b>  |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>8:30 am<br>4:30 pm | <b>January 4</b><br>† Josephine Zaragoza<br>† Jane Cunningham                         |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>8:30 am<br>10:30 am  | <b>January 5</b><br>People of the Parish<br>† Gervacio R. Pilare<br>† Asuncion Eroles |

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Monday, 12/30  | 1 Jn 2:12-17, Ps 96:7-10, Lk 2:36-40                         |
| Tuesday, 12/31 | 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18                    |
| Wednesday, 1/1 | Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21        |
| Thursday, 1/2  | 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28                          |
| Friday, 1/3    | 1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34                  |
| Saturday, 1/4  | 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42                        |
| Sunday, 1/5    | Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 |

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Sunday, 12/29  | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph   |
| Tuesday, 12/31 | St. Sylvester  |
| Wednesday 1/1  | The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; New Year's Day |
| Thursday, 1/2  | Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen  |
| Friday, 1/3    | The Most Holy Name of Jesus  |
| Saturday, 1/4  | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton;   |

## On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

### ●New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025,  
a Holy day of Obligation.

Mass is at 9:00 am.

The parish office will be closed on Wednesday,  
January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ●Santa Nino de Cebu

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am Mass.

### ●Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

The parish office is closed.

### ●Presidents Day

Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

The parish office is closed.



We congratulate Andriano Incasa,  
who was baptized at our Rectory Chapel  
on December 21, 2024.

## 2025 Mass Book is now open

Please follow the guidelines below  
when sending in your Mass requests.

Due to the large volume of Mass requests and in order  
to be fair to the needs of all our parishioners, the  
following is the Mass Book policy as set by Father  
Charles Puthota:

**All Masses including the Saturday Vigil Mass and  
Sunday Mass (10:30 am), will be accepting two  
intentions per Mass. The Sunday 8:30 am Mass is  
designated for the People of the Parish only.**

**We do not accept individual Mass Intentions for  
holidays or holy days including the following:  
Ash Wednesday, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's  
Day, All Saints All Souls, Thanksgiving, Christmas  
Eve and Christmas. The intentions will be for the  
entire St. Elizabeth Community.**

**Masses cannot be reserved  
by phone or in person.**

Requests must be submitted in writing or by email  
(preferred): [stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com)

Not all dates are available for Mass Intentions, so we  
ask that you be prepared with alternate dates and  
times. **If your requested date is not available an  
alternate date will be chosen for you.**



Faith Formation Christmas Mass Sunday,  
December 15<sup>th</sup>.

